

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for sealing a fibre-based material  $[(1, 4)]$  to a counter-surface to be bonded to the material by melting polymer present at  $[\text{the}]$  a seal point, comprising: wherein

~~the sealing is performed by directing a laser beam  $[(8)]$  through a fibre layer  $[(4)]$  of the material to a radiation-absorbing pigment disposed in  $[\text{the}]$  a sealing area  $[(9)]$ , with so that polymer present at the seal point the absorptive heat melting the polymer (5, 11, 12, 14, 15) is absorptive-heat-melted and the fibre-based material is sealed to the counter-surface of the material, and generating the sealing, and wherein~~

a laser source  $[(7)]$  of the laser beam  $[(8)]$  is a diode or Nd:YAG laser.

2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the fibre-based material is a polymer-coated paper or board having a polymer coating thereon  $[(1)]$ , and  
the polymer-coated paper or board is sealed to  $[\text{a}]$  said counter-surface  $[(5', 11', 12', 14)]$  placed adjacent  $[\text{the}]$  to said polymer coating (5, 11, 12).

3. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein  $[\text{a}]$  the fibre-based material  $[(1, 4)]$  is sealed to a counter-surface containing polymer placed adjacent the material, such as a polymer film  $[(14, 15)]$ .

4. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is included in the fibre-based material  $[(1)]$  to be sealed.

5. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is included in a member **[[ (15) ]]** forming the counter-surface, to which the fibre-based material **[[ (4) ]]** is to be sealed.

6. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment **[[ (13) ]]** is located on the surface of the fibre layer **[[ (4) ]]**.

7. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 6, wherein the pigment **[[ (13) ]]** is located under **[[a]]** said polymer coating **[[ (12) ]]** of a paper or board.

8. (**Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment is dispersed in a polymer layer **[[ (5, 15) ]]** of a coating or a film disposed on said fibre-based material.

9. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the pigment is included in the uppermost layer of a multi-layer polymer coating **[[ (5, 10) ]]** or film disposed on said fibre-based material.

10. (Withdrawn - **Currently Amended**) A method as defined in claim 8, wherein the pigment is included in an inner layer of a multi-layer polymer coating **[[ (5, 11) ]]** or film disposed on said fibre-based material.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the pigment contains carbon black.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the fibre-based material is a polymer-coated paper or board  $[(1)]$  is sealed to an adjacent polymer layer  $[(5', 11', 12', 14)]$ .

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 12, wherein the polymer-coated paper or board  $[(1)]$  is sealed against itself.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method as defined in claim 13, wherein the method is used for lateral sealing or closing of casing, container or bag packages made of polymer-coated paper or board  $[(1)]$ .

15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(New)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the laser source of the laser beam is a diode.

17. **(New)** A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.

18. (New) A method as defined in claim 2, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.

19. (New) A method as defined in claim 4, wherein the laser source of the laser is a Nd:YAG laser.